

Michigan is giving the boot to unsafe drivers who are repeat offenders.

Vehicles will be locked up when repeat offenders drive suspended or drunk again. Those are drivers who have:

- 2 or more alcohol-related convictions within 7 years.
- 3 or more convictions for driving while suspended or revoked in 7 years.
- 3 or more alcohol-related convictions within 10 years.

Repeat offenders who drive drunk or while suspended/revoked again are getting “the boot” in the following ways:

- Access to vehicles will be limited
 - Metal license plate confiscation
 - Immobilization
 - Registration denial (effective June 2000)
 - Ignition Interlock
- Sentencing will be tougher and licensing sanctions will be uniform
- Substance abuse treatment will be mandatory



Drunk Driving Convictions

In addition to the usual penalties such as court fines, community service requirements and driver license suspensions, drivers face the following:

- **First drunk driving conviction:** Possible vehicle immobilization for up to 6 months.
- **Second drunk driving arrest:** Mandatory metal license plate confiscation; paper plate issued.
Second drunk driving conviction: Mandatory vehicle immobilization for 3 to 6 months; possible vehicle forfeiture; mandatory substance abuse treatment.
- **Third drunk driving arrest:** Mandatory metal license plate confiscation; paper plate issued.
Third drunk driving conviction: Mandatory vehicle immobilization 1 to 3 years; possible vehicle forfeiture; mandatory substance abuse treatment. Registration denial (beginning June 2000).

Driving While License Suspended/Revoked (DWLS)

In the past, drivers suspended by courts for failing to pay tickets (FCJ) or failing to appear in court (FAC) did not receive an additional suspension for driving while suspended. That is no longer true! Not only will drivers receive additional suspensions for driving during an FCJ/FAC suspension, those violations will now be used to increase the sanctions.

- Second DWLS conviction: Possible vehicle immobilization up to 180 days.
- Third/Fourth DWLS ticket: Mandatory metal license plate confiscation.
Third/Fourth DWLS conviction: Mandatory vehicle immobilization for 3 to 6 months.
Fourth DWLS conviction: Registration denial (beginning June 2000).
- Fifth DWLS ticket: Mandatory metal license plate confiscation.
Fifth DWLS conviction: Mandatory vehicle immobilization for 1 to 3 years. Registration denial (beginning June 2000).

New Crimes

The repeat offender laws establish the following new crimes:

- **Driving While License Suspended Causing Injury** - 5 year felony
- **Driving While License Suspended Causing Death** - 15 year felony
- **Allowing Another Person to Drive While Suspended Causing Injury** - 2 year felony
- **Allowing Another Person to Drive While Suspended Causing Death** - 5 year felony
- **Endangerment:** Driving while impaired, under the influence or Zero Tolerance, with passengers under age 16 - misdemeanor

Glossary

Plate Confiscation At time of arrest officers will confiscate the metal license plate regardless of vehicle ownership, destroy it, and issue a paper plate that is valid until the case is decided.

Immobilization Immobilization of the offending vehicle will be court ordered. Drivers must have immobilization devices installed on the offending vehicle — regardless of co-ownership or lease agreements — at their expense and show proof of this to the court. Technologies include: ignition interlock, steering column club, wheel boot or driver tether.

Forfeiture The court will order the vehicle sold. Monies from the sale will be distributed as defined by statute, first to pay secured interests and then to others.

Registration Denial Neither the driver or co-owner of the vehicle can register or title the vehicle until the repeat offender is relicensed.

Mandatory Substance Abuse Treatment May include in-patient or out-patient care, counseling, or other forms of treatment. Offenders must pay for this program.

Ignition Interlock A device that prevents the vehicle from starting until the person passes a breath test. If the driver has any bodily alcohol content, the vehicle will not start. Random tests are required while operating the vehicle. Cost of ignition interlocks responsibility of the offender.

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MICHIGAN
SAFELY

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